

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION USING  
VARIOUS MODES OF TRANSMISSION

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A system and method of information dissemination that permits the user to listen to the specific content of information when and where he or she wants to. A radio or television receiver system receives information from an FM subcarrier, a television vertical blanking interval transmission, a television separate audio program transmission or a dedicated channel and stores the transmitted information in a memory. A user interface allows selection from the memory of the stored information via a set of menus controlling a hierarchical database, so as to access particular items of information. Typically the system includes RAM and/or a storage medium such as a digital audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or optical disk, sufficient to store information for 10 hours of audio. A decompression device, accepts the accessed compressed digital audio information items which may have been encrypted and transforms them into spoken speech. The user interface is either by voice or a single or multi-position switch allowing scanning through and selection from the menu items. The signal for such a device is generated by converting analog audio signals into a digital audio data stream which may be encrypted. The encrypted digital data stream is compressed and inserted <sup>into</sup> on the radio or television carrier via an FM Subcarrier, the television vertical interval or the separate audio program channel of a television transmitter. The system is also capable of transmitting alphanumeric data and converting this alphanumeric to a voice form using a speech synthesizer.